

NORTHWOODS JOURNAL — SEPTEMBER 2019

A FREE PUBLICATION ABOUT ENJOYING AND PROTECTING MARINETTE COUNTY'S OUTDOOR LIFE

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Need Native Plant, Pollinator, or other Information for Fall Projects?



Need guidance with upcoming landscape projects involving native plants, pollinator/butterfly gardening, improving wildlife habitat, or similar topics? Visit the Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division and UW-Extension, both located in the Land Information Office at the Marinette County Courthouse on the first floor. There are flyers, brochures, guides, and other materials available to help with your project, and staff can provide suggestions or answer questions. In addition, the Northern Lights Master Gardeners' Association holds two plant sales, one in May and one in September (see page 8) that include a wide variety of plants. NLMGA volunteers & UWEX staff will be present at the sale to answer questions and help with plant selection. Visit Land Information, UWEX, & NLMGA on Facebook, or call 715-732-7784 (LWCD) or 715-732-7510 (UWEX) for more information.

Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust in Marinette County

By Julie Hawkins-Tyriver, Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust Land Conservation Director



Why would anyone want to take 190 acres of lowland, rock, woods and rolling former pasture land and turn it into a conservancy?

"Because we owned the responsibility more than we owned the land," was the landowner's response.

Steve and his brother Michael spoke fondly of their youth and roaming the land near the town of Niagara in northern Marinette County. The brothers' affection for the land was evident as Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust (NEWLT) staff and volunteers hiked the area with them. Michael eagerly pointed out boyhood haunts such as a rock face, trails through the forest, multiple species of large trees, huge ant hills, a tamarack lowland and a crossing over the Spikehorn Creek. Some 1,200 feet of the Class 1 trout stream serpentine the land along one border. The gurgle of running water could be heard as we exited from a stand of white pine bordering a former pasture.



It is our hope that future generations will be able to enjoy the rich and healthy scenery, forested shorelines, rock outcroppings, bubbling springs, rolling hills, thundering waterfalls and wildlife-rich wetlands as we have.

Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust is a private, non-profit, member-supported land conservation organization working in 12 Wisconsin counties to preserve northeast Wisconsin's waters, landscapes, and natural habitats. Since their founding in 1996, they have preserved over 5,900 acres of natural land on 44 conservancies and 10 publicly accessible nature preserves. In Marinette County alone, they have conserved 2,300 acres and 11 miles of undeveloped shoreline that will be enjoyed over 100 years from now, just as we enjoy them today.



**NORTHEAST WISCONSIN
LAND TRUST**
Preserving Our Natural Heritage

The people at Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust consider themselves lucky to have the opportunity to preserve land supporting a rich diversity of plant and animal life, and representing some of Wisconsin's finest natural habitats. They know these places are cherished now and will be treasured long into the future by subsequent generations of people who live, work and play in northeastern Wisconsin.



They also know that they cannot do it alone. Opportunity alone does not conserve land. Being able to meet the challenge depends on member support and volunteer involvement. As a small staff, Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust depends heavily on passionate volunteers to carry out the mission to ensure that the waters, landscapes and natural habitats we love, can be enjoyed by future generations.

The Land Trust feels that while change is inevitable, the loss of our natural heritage is not. Please join us in preserving what we love about northeast Wisconsin. While we have done much, there's still much to do.



Visit NEWLT online at <https://www.newlt.org/> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/northeastwisconsinlandtrust/>.

15 Fun Outdoor Activities for Kids this Fall

From: www.youbrewmytea.com



It's hard sometimes to find the best outdoor activities for kids that will suit their personalities while also getting them outside. If you are not the 'outdoorsy' type that's OK - it has more to do with the activity and less to do with the outdoors themselves. These outdoor activities are tons of fun and a great way to get kids outside using their imagination, and keeps them active and moving.



Take a nature walk together. You can even print up a simple scavenger hunt list for your kids of things like stones, specific leaves, berries, or similar items you know are in your area.

Pick leaves and make some leaf rubbings. Nothing is as much fun as grabbing leaves from the pile you just raked or from a tree and using them to make fun leaf rubbings.

Rake leaves and play in them. You can rake them up to play and have fun jumping and rolling in the leaves, then clean up and bag them to be recycled or turned into compost.



Learn how to build a fire and make s'mores. One thing that every kid needs to learn is a respect for fire. Depending on their age, you can take time for one of the best outdoor activities for kids, and teach them how to safely build a fire. If they are too young to learn how to do this themselves, you can have them help gather up sticks and such to build a fire for everyone to make s'mores.



Go camping in your backyard. One of the best ways to have fun camping without having to be too uncomfortable is to set up your tent in the backyard. You still have access to your bathroom and the comforts of home, but also have some freedom to enjoy things like hot dogs and s'mores cooked over a fire.

Pick apples at a local orchard. This is such a fun thing to do. There are many orchards that allow you to pick your own apples. It's a great way to spend a day with the kids, then you can come home and make fun recipes.

Create a backyard obstacle course. Use things like fallen leaves, crates, totes, hula hoops, jump ropes, and more to create a fun outdoor backyard obstacle course kids will love timing each other to go through.

Play yard games. With the summer heat gone, it's a great time to spend more time outside

playing things like volleyball, horseshoes, shuffleboard, croquet, or similar fun classic yard games.

Go to a corn maze. Fall harvest events often have a corn maze to have fun walking through. Take your kids to a local event for a fun time figuring out how to make their way through a corn maze.

Bob for apples. This classic harvest season game is a great one you can do at home with just your family. A few apples, a tub of water, and tones of laughter will be a great way to spend a few hours with your kids.



Volunteer to do clean up. Fall means leaves are falling all over the community. Whether it is helping a neighbor rake and bag leaves, or heading out to the local park and picking up litter, you can use the nicer weather as a great way to encourage your kids to volunteer in the community.



Decorate your home for the holidays. With so many great holidays happening in the fall months, it's a great time to get your kids involved with putting out the outdoor decorations. Let them join in to help as well as make decisions on how your home should be decorated.

Visit a pumpkin patch. Dozens of pumpkin farms across the country offer more than just u-pick patches! Most also offer hay rides, corn mazes, food fairs and more festive fun and activities.

Go fishing. As summer fades into fall, one of the best outdoor activities for kids is to take them fishing. With local lakes, ponds, and beaches not so busy thanks to peak season being over, you have a better chance of finding a quiet fishing spot.



Plant fall crops in your garden. It's a great time to teach kids about what plants grow in cooler fall and winter temperatures. Let your kids help you to clean up your summer garden and prepare that area for growing fall or even winter crops.



Annual Fall Family Fun Fest at Harmony Arboretum, Saturday, October 12, 2:00-5:00 p.m.



Visit the Children's Learning Garden at the Harmony Arboretum for a 'spooktacularly' good time! A family-oriented event for kids - crafts, games, farm animal education area, pumpkin decorating, displays, a costume parade and more for the whole family! Refreshments will be available to purchase. **The event admission is free, but non-perishable food item donations are appreciated.**



Pumpkin decorating above; making birdseed ornament 'cookies' below



For more information, please call the UW-Extension office at 715-732-7510 or visit <https://marinette.uwex.edu/>.

Be happy to see us!

Our favorite foods are termites, wasps, hornets, maggots, rats, mice moles, cockroaches, and snakes!



We don't want to spray you! It depletes our resources and leaves us vulnerable for up to ten days. Give us some space and we can help you!



Area Farmers' & Flea Markets



Crivitz Flea & Farmers' Market: Open every Thursday from May 23 through August 29, 8am-4pm across from St. Mary's Catholic Church at 800 Henriette Avenue. Wide variety of vendors with handmade arts & crafts, antiques, collectables and much more! Contact Barbara Uhl at 715-854-2030 to rent space by day or season up to first market date. Bonus Flea Market – July 4, 8am – 4pm.

Stephenson Island Out to Lunch: Will be at Stephenson Island, north on Hwy. 41 off the Interstate Bridge between WI & MI border. Every Wednesday, beginning on June 19 from 11 am to 1 pm. Includes Farmers Market. For more information 715-732-4333.

Menominee County Farm & Food Exchange: Saturdays 9 am-noon outside by the Jack's Fresh Market grocery store at 1207 8th Ave., Menominee MI (just over Interstate Bridge to the right). On Facebook or call 906-639-3377.

Menominee Historic Downtown Farmers Market: June 1 to September 28, Saturdays 9am-noon. Located at 800 1st Street (near the library) in Menominee, MI. Contact Lucy Pier

THE CIRCLE OF LIFE

*The Foundation of our Ecosystem is Rooted in Native Plants.
Bee Sustainable. Plant Natives.*



Northwoods Journal
Volume 17, Issue 4

The *Northwoods Journal* focuses on outdoor recreation opportunities and local environmental topics to inform readers about natural resource use, management, and recreation in Marinette County.

Published in cooperation by:

- Marinette Co. Land & Water Conservation
- Marinette Co. UW-Extension
- Marinette Co. Parks & Outdoor Recreation

UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA. To ensure equal access, please make requests for reasonable accommodations as soon as possible prior to the scheduled program. If you need this material in another format, please contact the UW-Extension office at 715-732-7510.

Please send comments to:
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Winter Is Coming: What's A Fish to Do?

By Joe Hennessy, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Lake Tides Newsletter, Volume 30, No. 4



Have you ever wondered what life is like for the fish in our lakes when ice covers the surface and cold sets in? Ice anglers bring some of them up to the surface, but others remain in the darkness below.

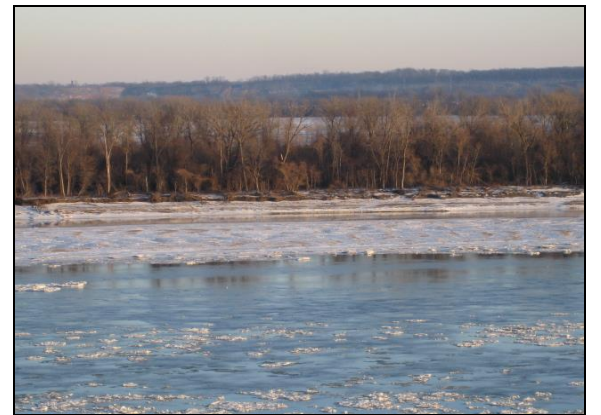


As temperatures drop and ice encroaches from the shorelines of lakes and rivers, fish have fewer options for retreat than other creatures. Fish are *poikilotherms*, that is, "cold-blooded," meaning their body temperature remains close to that of the surrounding environment. They do not (in general) possess a mechanism for regulating their body temperature like mammals. Body heat is lost directly to the surrounding environment as they respire. So, as water temperatures approach 38½ degrees Fahrenheit and colder, what's a fish to do?

In the cold, fish move very slowly and metabolic processes take place slowly. When weather is warmer, they can move more quickly. In this way, fish do not have to spend much of their energy on keeping a constant temperature. Much of the food mammals eat is burned to maintain body heat (we and other mammals are *homiotherms*).

There are tradeoffs in both lifestyles. A handful of fish species, such as some bullheads, partially burrow in mud to stay a little warmer. Other fish, such as bass, become very inactive and live off bodily energy stores developed in summer and fall. Still others, such as pike, are better adapted to cooler water and remain relatively active during winter, taking advantage of dead or slow-moving prey. These species are also more likely to spawn earlier in the spring.

All fish will continue to feed through winter, but at a relatively slow rate, because they are not using much energy to move or maintain body temperature. Fish of all species tend to congregate in areas where food is relatively easily obtained, and where shelter is nearby. For bluegill or perch, food is frequently small, worm-like midge larvae (*chironomids*), which can be found on muddy lake bottoms. For pike, food is where the bluegill and perch are!



Rivers present additional challenges for wintering fish. Food is less readily available and cold water temperatures make fish less active, but currents do not relent. Slow-water habitat becomes crucial for many species, and others seek the deepest holes they can find. In large rivers such as the Mississippi, channelization for barge traffic and levee construction in the name of flood control has eliminated or isolated a great deal of side-channel or backwater habitat. Side channels and backwaters are slow-water areas on the margins of the main river channel that traditionally provided refuge for many fish in winter. These areas offered greater abundance of food and slow or still water. Today in many parts of large rivers this type of habitat is unavailable, and fish are forced into less desirable alternatives.



For example, in the Mississippi River, the areas just downstream of and just behind wing-dams provide key areas with deep water and little current. However, these areas are much more exposed to the main channel than traditional backwater sloughs, and do not provide the same diversity and amount of habitat once available. Pressure waves from barges passing in winter are of sufficient force to physically move fish out of their refuges and send them into the main channel, where they are forced to use precious energy to get back to safe haven. Another regularly observed phenomenon in large rivers is "winter drift" of catfish, where catfish of all sizes are seen alive near the surface, but passively drifting downstream. The ultimate fate of these fish is unknown.

Whether home is a lake or a river, a fish faces survival challenges throughout the long winter. A chilling thought, indeed!



Smokey the Bear's 75th Birthday - Cheers to 75 years preventing wildfires!

<https://smokeybear.com/en>



One spring day in 1950, in the Capitan Mountains of New Mexico, an operator in one of the fire towers spotted smoke and called the location in to the nearest ranger station. The first crew discovered a major wildfire sweeping along the ground between the trees, driven by a strong wind. Word spread rapidly, and more crews reported to help. Forest rangers, local crews from New Mexico and Texas, and the New Mexico State Game Department set out to gain control of the raging wildfire.

As the crew battled to contain the blaze, they received a report of a lone bear cub seen wandering near the fire line. They hoped that the mother bear would return for him. Soon, about 30 of the firefighters were caught directly in the path of the fire storm. They survived by lying face down on a rockslide for over an hour as the fire burned past them.

Nearby, the little cub had not fared as well. He took refuge in a tree that became completely charred, escaping with his life but also badly burned paws and hind legs. The crew removed the cub from the tree, and a rancher among the crew agreed to take him home. A New Mexico Department of Game and Fish ranger heard about the cub when he returned to the fire camp. He drove to the rancher's home to help get the cub on a plane to Santa Fe, where his burns were treated and bandaged.



The bear sustained burns to his legs and paws. Pictured: Veterinarian Edwin J. Smith examines the paws of the future Smokey Bear after his rescue (*The Real Smokey Bear*)



State Game and Fish warden Ray Bell helped care for this bear cub rescued from a fire in the Lincoln National Forest in 1950. The bear was named Hot Foot Teddy, but was later renamed Smokey Bear and sent to the National Zoo in Washington D.C. (AP Photo/Sierra County Sentinel).



Orphaned black bear cub "Smokey II" was the second live representation of Smokey Bear from 1975 to his death in 1990. Photo: U.S. Department of Agriculture.

News about the little bear spread swiftly throughout New Mexico. Soon, the United Press and Associated Press broadcast his story nationwide, and many people wrote and called, asking about the cub's recovery. The state game warden wrote to the chief of the Forest Service, offering to present the cub to the agency as long as the cub would be dedicated to a conservation and wildfire prevention publicity program. The cub was soon on his way to the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., becoming the living symbol of Smokey Bear.



Smokey cub sitting on a Piper PA-12 Super Cruiser

Smokey received numerous gifts of honey and so many letters he had to have his own zip code. He remained at the zoo until his death in 1976, when he was returned to his home to be buried at the Smokey Bear Historical Park in Capitan, New Mexico, where he continues to be a wildfire prevention legend.



Smokey Bear and his wife "Goldie" who arrived at the National Zoo in 1962. They adopted a son in 1971 (USFS).

In 1952, Steve Nelson and Jack Rollins wrote the popular anthem that would launch a continuous debate about Smokey's name. To maintain the rhythm of the song, they added "the" between "Smokey" and "Bear." Due to the song's popularity, Smokey Bear has been called "Smokey the Bear" by many adoring fans, but, in actuality, his name never changed. He's still Smokey Bear.

- 🐾 <https://www.fs.fed.us/features/story-smokey-bear> - US Forest Service
- 🐾 <http://www.capitanlibrary.org/research/smokey-bear.htm> - History of Smokey Bear
- 🐾 <https://www.adcouncil.org/Our-Campaigns/Safety/Wildfire-Prevention>
- 🐾 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gAu2yQ QEYWo> – *The Real Smokey Bear* (no sound on this video)

Autumn Fire Prevention

As September ushers in the start of a new school year, Mother Nature begins her process of settling down for the winter. Leaves turn colors and fall from trees; plants and grasses go dormant, leaving only crispy brown remnants of their green summer glory. **As the temperature and leaves drop, the risk of wildfires rises.** Wisconsin has a long history of destructive wildfires. Oct. 8 will be the 148th anniversary of the Peshtigo Fire, considered to be the nation's deadliest fire. The Peshtigo Fire burned more than a million acres of northeastern Wisconsin and upper Michigan in 1871, destroyed 12 communities, and took an estimated 1,200 to 2,400 lives.

Wildfires occur any time of the year when the ground is not snow covered. The air temperature can be below freezing or well above 80. This wide range of conditions - combined with campfires and the burning of leaves, brush, and even trash - increase the opportunities for fires to spread and burn natural resources and personal property.

In Marinette County, the main causes of wildfires during fall are trees and limbs falling on power lines, campfires, lightning, logging or farm equipment, burn barrels, leaf and brush burning and ash disposal. Taking precautions any time you use fire outdoors is key to preventing wildfires, and avoiding paying a hefty suppression bill should you start one.



If you use a woodstove or fireplace for heating your home, empty ashes into a metal container with a tight fitting lid or dump ashes onto bare soil then drown the ash with water and stir until you're sure no hot embers remain. The same goes for campfires, burn barrels and burned leaf and brush piles – before you leave the area, drown the ashes, stir, and keep adding water until all smoke is gone.

Keep aware of fire danger year-round by bookmarking the DNR's fire Web page: <https://dnr.wi.gov> (keyword 'fire'). For smartphones, the state map of fire danger is now mobile-friendly.

For more information about "Fire-wise" methods or resources, contact Jolene Ackerman, Wildland Urban Interface Coordinator, at Jolene.ackerman@wi.gov or call 608-267-7677.



Composting in the Home Garden

From <https://extension.illinois.edu/compost/process.cfm>



What is compost?

Compost is decomposed organic material. Compost is made with material such as leaves, shredded twigs, and kitchen scraps from plants. To gardeners, compost is considered "black gold" because of its many benefits in the garden. *Compost is a great material for garden soil.* Adding compost to clay soils makes them easier to work and plant. In sandy soils, the addition of compost improves the water holding capacity of the soil. By adding organic matter to the soil, compost can help improve plant growth and health.

Composting is also a good way to recycle leaves and other yard waste. Instead of paying a company to haul away leaves, you can compost the leaves and return the nutrients to your garden. Instead of buying peat moss, save money and make your own compost!

The composting process

The composting process involves four main components: **organic matter, moisture, oxygen,** and **bacteria.** Organic matter includes plant materials and some animal manures. Organic materials used for compost should include a mixture of brown organic material (dead leaves, twigs, manure) and green organic material (lawn clippings, fruit rinds, etc.). Brown materials supply carbon, while green materials supply nitrogen. **The best ratio is 1 part green to 1 part brown material.** Shredding, chopping or mowing these materials into smaller pieces will help speed the composting process by increasing the surface area. For piles that have mostly brown material (dead leaves), try adding a handful of commercial 10-10-10 fertilizer to supply nitrogen and speed the compost process.



Moisture is important to support the composting process. Compost should be comparable to the wetness of a wrung-out sponge. If the pile is too dry, materials will decompose very slowly. Add water during dry periods or when adding large amounts of brown organic material. If the pile is too wet, turn the pile and mix the materials. Another option is to add dry, brown organic materials.

Oxygen is needed to support the breakdown of plant material by bacteria. To supply oxygen, you will need to turn the compost pile so that materials at the edges are brought to the center of the pile. Turning the pile is important for complete composting and for controlling odor.

Wait at least two weeks before turning the pile, to allow the center of the pile to "heat up" and decompose. Once the pile has cooled in the

center, decomposition of the materials has taken place. Frequent turning will help speed the composting process.

Bacteria and other microorganisms are the real workers in the compost process. By supplying organic materials, water, and oxygen, the already present bacteria will break down the plant material into useful compost for the garden. As the bacteria decompose the materials, they release heat, which is concentrated in the center of the pile.

You may also add layers of soil or finished compost to supply more bacteria and speed the composting process. Commercial starters are available but should not be necessary for compost piles that have a proper carbon to nitrogen ratio (1 part green organic material to 1 part brown organic material).



In addition to bacteria, larger organisms including insects and earthworms are active composters. These organisms break down large materials in the compost pile.

How long does it take?

The amount of time needed to produce compost depends on several factors, including the size of the compost pile, the types of materials, the surface area of the materials, and the number of times the pile is turned. For most efficient composting, use a pile that is between 3 feet cubed and 5 feet cubed (27-125 cu. ft.). This allows the center of the pile to heat up sufficiently to break down materials.

Smaller piles can be made but will take longer to produce finished compost. Larger piles can be made by increasing the length of the pile but limiting the height and the depth to 5 feet tall by 5 feet deep; however, large piles are limited by a person's ability to turn the materials. You may also want to have two piles, one for finished compost ready to use in the garden, and the other for unfinished compost.

If the pile has more brown organic materials, it may take longer to compost. You can speed up the process by adding more green materials or a fertilizer with nitrogen (use one cup per 25 square feet). The surface area of the materials effects the time needed for composting. By breaking materials down into smaller parts (chipping, shredding, mulching leaves), the surface area of the materials will increase. This helps the bacteria to more quickly break down materials into compost.



Finally, the number of times the pile is turned influences composting speed. By turning more frequently (about every 2-4 weeks), you will

produce compost more quickly. Waiting at least two weeks allows the center of the pile to heat up and promotes maximum bacterial activity. The average composter turns the pile every 4-5 weeks.



When turning the compost pile, make sure that materials in the center are brought to the outsides, and that materials from the outside edges are brought to the center. With frequent turning, compost can be ready in about 3 months, depending on the time of year. In winter, the activity of the bacteria slows, and it is recommended that you stop turning the pile after November to keep heat from escaping the pile's center. In summer, warm temperatures encourage bacterial activity and the composting process is quicker



Using compost in the yard

Incorporate compost into your garden as you prepare the soil in the spring. Cover the area with 3-4 inches of soil and till it in to at least the upper 6 inches of soil. Add compost to soil in vegetable gardens, annual flower beds, and around new perennials as they are planted. You may also use compost as mulch around flower beds, vegetable gardens, or around trees or shrubs in landscape beds. Apply a 3 inch layer. Be careful not to apply mulch close to the main stem or trunk of the plant.

MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE AND COMPOST YOUR WASTE!

Wondering what to do with that banana peel?
Here's a handy guide to help you sort your waste.

WHAT CAN BE COMPOSTED

Fruit, vegetables, peels, rinds, stale bread, cooked and uncooked pasta, tortilla chips, cereal, oatmeal, crushed eggshells, coffee grounds and tea leaves, napkins and paper towels

WHAT CANNOT BE COMPOSTED

Dairy products, meat and bones, fried foods (like french fries), plastics (including stickers, like fruit labels), grease and oil, sugary and processed foods, nuts



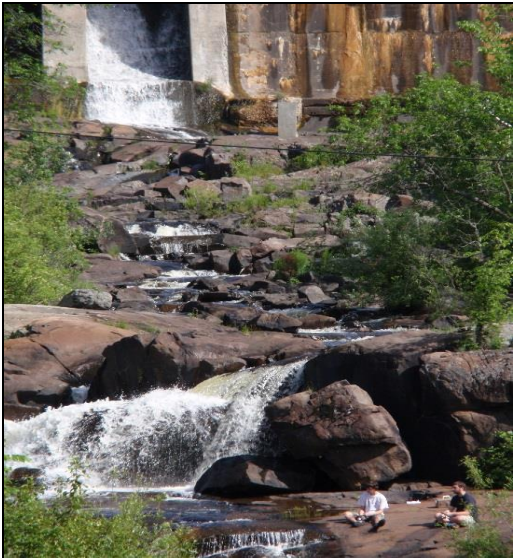
Six Inspiring Places to View Fall Colors in Marinette County

By Zak Bruss from: www.whoonew.com



The radiance of autumn is upon us. Trees are bursting with red, orange, and yellow leaves. With the changing of seasons, it is time to get outdoors and experience Mother Nature's wonders. In my opinion, there is no better place to take in the fall colors than the Northwoods of Marinette County. Door County is also exploding with wondrous fall foliage, but there is something about Marinette County that sets it apart from anywhere else in Northeast Wisconsin.

For me, there is nothing quite like sitting next to a waterfall and watching a season in change. The solitude and beauty of Marinette County's parks, rivers, and lakes is unmatched as the colors turn in late September and early October. Take a drive and see the majestic changes for yourself. You may find your new favorite spot along your journey. If you are not familiar with the territory, here are six can't miss places I recommend for taking in the fall frondescence.



Caldron Falls, High Falls, and the Peshtigo River:

Anywhere near the water is a perfect spot to view the color wheel of fall. The vibrant hues reflected on the water add to the awe-inspiring beauty of autumn. You can view the changing season from shore, but why not get in the water? After all, winter is just a few weeks away, and this might be your last chance to take in some canoeing or kayaking before the snow falls. So load up your vessel, and check out one of these beautiful bodies of water for yourself. The Peshtigo River links High Falls and Caldron Falls. However, because of hydroelectric dams, you will have to portage your watercraft if you want to jump from one to the next. I recommend experiencing each individually, a day at a time. If viewing these waterways from shore, there are a number of hiking paths and areas for people of all abilities to enjoy the fall colors. Remember, whatever you do, do not forget your camera. Whether a professional photographer or amateur shutterbug, you will find plenty of scenic locations for landscape shots.

Goodman Park and Strong Falls: You may be asking yourself, "I've already been to one waterfall, and could the drive really be worth it?" The answer is YES! Goodman Park, located west of Athelstane, is a favorite of locals and those who have cabins Up North. The park is just a bit smaller than McClintock, but features huge boulders that make a great backdrop for your photos. The huge red pines at Goodman also add a bit of diversity if you are on a fall scenery adventure. Plus, the bridge over Strong Falls lets you hear the roar of the rapids from right in the middle of the upper Peshtigo River. Goodman Park has two lodges for day-use rental, a picnic area, playground, and hiking trail. There are also 15 no-electricity campground sites right on the river. Or if you are looking for a bit more comfort, a rental cabin for overnight stays.

Gov. Thompson State Park: Founded in 2000, Gov. Thompson State Park is 2,800 acres and features two small kettle lakes and 6.5 miles of shoreline along the Caldron Falls Reservoir. The park has campsites and well-groomed hiking trails. It is also pet friendly. Last

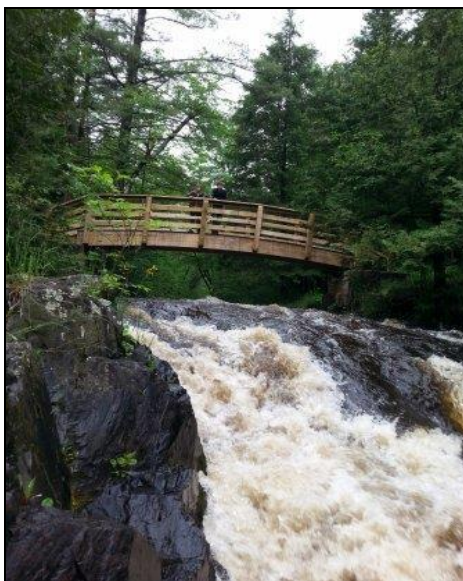
fall my wife and I took our dog, Franny, for a hike through the woods. It was our first visit to Gov. Thompson State Park and we were not disappointed. Even Franny was in awe of the fall colors!



McClintock Park: The rest of the parks on this list also cost a small fee to get into. The daily fee is \$5, but if you are up for the week or frequent the Northwood's, a \$20 Marinette County parks sticker is available. McClintock Park has four bridges that span over the roaring rapids of the upper Peshtigo River. This park is 320 acres of pure beauty. It is also a great spot for a fall picnic and includes a 10-site rustic campground and if you are into four-wheeling, the campground has direct ATV trail access so you can zip by those brilliant trees and experience a kaleidoscope of colors.



Veteran's Memorial Park: Veteran's Memorial Park is one of my favorite spring trout fishing spots, but it is also a great location to scope out the fall foliage. While the rapids are not as wild as McClintock or Goodman, Veteran's Memorial Park is the perfect spot for a little self-meditation as you are hiking along the river. I personally think it is the best park Marinette County has to offer, perhaps because of the memories I have created there. Whether hooking a brook trout in early May with my father, or watching my wife tiptoe on a log across the river, I have nothing but fondness for this park. I highly recommend you check it out for yourself. Remember, if you buy a day pass for any of the Marinette County parks, you can hop from one to the next all for five bucks.



Thunder Mountain Overlook: Thunder Mountain is a place of lore in Marinette County. It is home to the super PRIVATE 3,300 acre Thunder Mountain Ranch which was founded by the Wrigley family (yes, the chewing gum people). While the ranch is surely glorious with its own airstrip, golf course and restaurant, Thunder Mountain Overlook, which is accessible to the public, is a place you can't put a price tag on. With three miles of scenic hiking and mountain biking trails of varying terrain, the Overlook offers a stupendous panoramic view of Marinette County in the fall. I hope you enjoy the breathtaking view. Thunder Mountain will hopefully leave you at a loss for words.

Successful 2019 Garden Walk

The biennial Garden Walk - sponsored by the Northern Lights Master Gardeners - was held on July 20. Many people attended the self-guided tour of the seven sites, despite a bit of rainy weather. This event will next be held in 2021. Visit NLMGA on Facebook for more!



Northwoods Journal Online

Would you like to read current issues of the *Northwoods Journal* online? Go to www.marinettecounty.com and search for "Northwoods Journal". We can also send you an e-mail reminder when each new issue is posted online. Contact Anne Bartels, Information & Education Specialist at 715-732-7784 or email abartels@marinettecounty.com.



To Help Birds This Winter, Go Easy on Fall Yard Work

<https://www.audubon.org/news/to-help-birds-winter-go-easy-fall-yard-work>



Blue Jays and other birds find more winter food in "messy" backyards.

A manicured lawn might look nice, but messy is better for birds and bugs. There's a certain satisfaction in autumn chores. When the weather's right, cleaning gutters, touching up paint, or splitting some firewood can feel less like manual labor and more like a rite of the season. But if you want to make your backyard a welcoming winter haven for birds, some fall tasks call for a *laissez-faire* approach. "Messy is definitely good to provide food and shelter for birds during the cold winter months," says Tod Winston, Audubon's 'Plants for Birds' program manager.

So let someone else keep up with the neighbors this weekend. Sleep in, linger a little longer with your morning coffee, and follow these tips for a bird-friendly yard you can be proud of.

Save the seeds. When fall arrives, some tidy-minded gardeners might be inclined to snip the stems of perennials in the flower garden. But the seed heads of coneflowers, black-eyed Susans, and other native wildflowers provide a helpful food cache for birds. "They're almost invisible, those seeds, but birds eat them all winter long," Winston says. Grasses - not the stuff you mow, but native species like bluestems or gramas - also make for good foraging after they go to seed. And letting other dead plants stick around can fill your property with protein-packed bird snacks in the form of insect larvae, such as the fly and wasp larvae that inhabit goldenrod galls.



Leave native perennials standing until spring and their seed heads will provide nutrition for birds, like this American Goldfinch nibbling on bergamot seeds.

Leave the leaves. You can help birds and other wildlife - and save yourself some backache and blisters - by skipping the leaf raking. "Those leaves are important because they rot and enrich the soil, and also provide places for bugs and birds to forage for food," Winston says. If a fully hands-off approach doesn't work for your yard, consider composting some leaves and letting the rest be. You could also rake them from the lawn to your garden beds, or mulch them with a mower to nourish your lawn.



Leaf litter isn't just free fertilizer - it's also a pretty happening patch of habitat for a variety of critters such as salamanders, snails, worms, and toads. "If you're digging in the garden and come upon these squirmy little coppery-brown dudes, and you don't know what they are - those are moth pupae," Winston says. A healthy layer of undisturbed soil and leaf litter means more moths, which in their caterpillar phase are a crucial food source for birds.

Build a brush pile. Along with shaking loose showers of leaves, blustery fall days also tend to knock down tree limbs. Rather than hauling them away, you can use fallen branches to build a brush pile that will shelter birds from lousy weather and predators. American Tree Sparrows, Black-capped Chickadees, and other wintering birds will appreciate the protection from the elements. Rabbits, snakes, and other wildlife also will take refuge there. You'll find that the pile settles and decomposes over the seasons ahead, making room for next year's additions (and it's a great place to dispose of your Christmas tree).



Skip the chemicals. You might see your neighbors spreading "weed and feed" mixtures in the fall to fertilize their lawns and knock back crabgrass and other unwanted plants. In most cases, though, grass clippings and mulched leaf litter provide plenty of plant nutrition, and using store-bought fertilizers only encourages more non-native plants to grow. Generally speaking, native grasses, shrubs, trees, and flowering plants don't need chemical inputs. Save a few bucks and keep your yard healthy for bugs and birds.

Hit the nursery. Although laziness can be a good thing when it comes to creating a bird-friendly backyard, it's worth putting in some



hard work planting native shrubs and trees. (Cooler temperatures also make fall a more comfortable time to tear out some turf grass and expand your native plant garden.) Native dogwoods, hawthorns, sumacs, and other flowering shrubs produce small fruits that not only feed birds during the colder months, but can also provide a welcome pop of color when winter gets drab. Planted in the right place, evergreens like cedars and firs give birds something to eat and a cozy shelter. Fall is also a great time to liven up your property with late-blooming perennials such as asters or sages - and to buy spring and summer-blooming wildflowers at a substantial discount.




To find species suited to your yard, just enter your ZIP code in Audubon's native plants database. If you plant trees or shrubs this fall, they might not bear fruit this year - but come next winter, you and your backyard birds will be glad you did.

Related information about habitat and wildlife:

- <https://www.audubon.org/news/grow-these-native-plants-so-your-backyard-birds-can-feast>
- <https://www.audubon.org/magazine/july-august-2013/how-create-bird-friendly-yard>
- <https://www.audubon.org/news/new-research-further-proves-native-plants-offer-more-bugs-birds>
- <https://www.audubon.org/news/build-brush-pile-birds>

Let It Bee

The Secret to a Healthier Garden



Dead and decaying plants & seed pods are essential food & habitat for life in your garden.





Winter survival of birds, bees, butterflies, other insects, & microbes depends on them.



Do protect tender perennials and decor.



But, unless diseased, pest-infested, or invasive, leave the rest until late spring.



Let nature do what it does best.

Fall 'mess' nurtures spring life.



Area Events Calendar



- June-October

OUT TO LUNCH. Every Wednesday beginning on June 19 from 11 am to 1 pm. Includes Farmers Market; located at Stephenson Island in Marinette, located North on Hwy 41 off the Interstate Bridge between the WI and MI borders. For more information, please call 715-732-4333.
- September – Dec.

FORGOTTEN FIRE WINERY SUMMER CONCERT SERIES, Peshtigo. Join the fun every Saturday in September for the outdoor concerts. Music starts at Noon and ends at 4 pm. No carry-ins please. Visit www.forgottenfirewinery.com/events for a full listing of artists performing during the 2019 season. There are many other interesting events taking place at the winery. Check out their website for a list of events.
- September 1

ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL. The West Shore Fishing Museum will hold their annual ice cream social from noon to 4 p.m. Food available includes brats and hotdogs, homemade pies, ice cream and root beer. Live music, kids' games and raffles. Visitors can explore three museum buildings, gift shop, five commercial fishing boats, nature trails and gardens, and grounds. The museum is located 15 miles north of Menominee on highway M-35. Enter the museum grounds through Bailey Park at N5146 M-35.
- September 14

OKTOBERFEST IN CRIVITZ. Held at the Crivitz Community Veterans Park, 510 Louisa St., from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. There will be German food, beverages, live bands, adult contests, children's games and more. For more information, call the Crivitz Village Hall at 715-854-2748.
- September 21

MENOMINEE HISTORIC WATERFRONT DOWNTOWN GIANT PUMPKIN FESTIVAL. Held at Marina Park, Menominee. Events include pie-eating competition, jump around bouncy fun, pumpkin seed-spitting contest, food and craft vendors, farmers market, live music, and the Giant Pumpkin Regatta Boat Race. For applications for the Giant Pumpkin Race or information people may email giantpumpkinfestival6@gmail.com or call 906-863-8718.
- September 28

CRIVITZ FALL HARVEST FEST at the Crivitz High School from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. Many Crafters, over 60 Vendors, Bake Sale, Outdoor Decorations. Admission is canned goods for a donation to the Crivitz Food Pantry. For more information, please contact Jolene Huc at (715) 854-2721
- September 29

PESHTIGO HISTORICAL DAYS. Fire tower walk/run at 8am with registration from 6:30-7:45am. Parade starts at 10:30am. All main events at Badger Park – no admission charged. Car Show begins at 1 pm Activities include: horseshoe tournament, live music from 11:30am to 9:30pm, craft booths, food, balloon jumping equipment and games all day with fireworks at dusk.
- October 5

WAUSAUKEE FALL FESTIVAL. 11th Annual Wausaukee Fall Festival will host over 100 crafters lining the village from North of Jackson Street to Evergreen Plaza on east sidewalk of Highway 141. Food, beverage, crafters, horse drawn wagon rides, live music and the event will be held rain or shine. 9am to 5pm. For more information treasurer@villageofwausaukee.com or contact Sara at 715-856-5341.
- October 12

FALL FAMILY FUN FEST. The Harmony Arboretum, N3890 County E, Peshtigo, will hold this family-oriented event on Saturday, October 12th, from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Hands-on nature crafts, games, farm animal learning and petting area, with many more activities. This event is free, but food pantry donations will be accepted at the entrance.
- November 22 & 23

OLD WORLD CHRISTMAS MARKET. Held in conjunction with City of Menominee and the Menominee Downtown Business Association at Great Lakes Menominee Marina Park, Downtown Menominee, Nov. 22 from 5 to 9 p.m. and Nov. 23 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be crafts vendors, food, music, holiday sights and sounds.



Harmony Arboretum Fall Schedule of Events

Located seven miles west of Marinette off of Highway 64, then ½ mile south on County E.
All programs are free unless otherwise stated. For more information, call UW-Extension at 715-732-7510 or Land & Water Conservation at 715-732-7780.



- Sept. 5 - Salsa Night, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

This fun and flavorful event celebrates America's favorite condiment and the plants we grow from which it is made. Join us as we share safe salsa recipes, growing hints for the vegetables and herbs used in salsa, and a taste bud tantalizing sampling of great salsa recipes. Please consider bringing a batch of your own salsa, or some chips/crackers to share.
- Sept. 14 - Plant Sale & Plant Pest Clinic, 9:00 am – noon

Support the work done at Harmony Arboretum by purchasing plants from the Northern Lights Master Gardener Volunteers. Extension Horticulture Agent will be on hand to identify any plant pest samples brought in and assist in pest management issues.



- October 12 - Fall Fun Fest, 2:00-5:00 pm

A family oriented Halloween-themed event. Free, but food pantry donations accepted at entrance. See page 7 for more information.
- October 28 - Astronomy at the Arboretum, 6:00-7:30 pm

Introduction to stars, constellations, star lore, and other space related topics - includes a stargazing tour. Handouts and information will be available. Dress for the weather, hot beverages will be provided; if rain, snow, or mostly overcast, event will be cancelled.
- November 20 – Astronomy at the Arboretum, 5:00-6:30 pm - see above



This is the last issue of the 2019 Northwoods Journal! The June 2020 issue will be available for the Memorial Day holiday weekend.
Enjoy the rest of 2019!

